Minor Exorcisms

90 The first or minor exorcisms have been composed in the form of petitions directly addressed to God. They draw the attention of the catechumens to the real nature of Christian life, the struggle between flesh and spirit, the importance of self-denial for reaching the blessedness of God's kingdom, and the unending need for God's help.

91 The presiding celebrant for the minor exorcisms is a priest, a deacon, or a qualified catechist appointed by the bishop for this ministry.

92 The minor exorcisms take place within a celebration of the word of God held in a church, a chapel, or in a center for the catechumenate. A minor exorcism may also be held at the beginning or end of a meeting for catechesis. When there is some special need, one of these prayers of exorcism may be said privately for individual catechumens.

93 The formularies for the minor exorcisms may be used on several occasions, as different situations may suggest.

Prayers of Exorcism

As the catechumens bow or kneel, the celebrant, with hands outstretched over them, says one of the following prayers.

Let us pray,

A God of power,
who promised us the Holy Spirit through Jesus your Son,
we pray to you for these catechumens,
who present themselves before you.

Protect them from the spirit of evil
and guard them against error and sin,
so that they may become the temple of your Holy Spirit.

Confirm what we profess in faith,
so that our words may not be empty,
but full of the grace and power
by which your Son has freed the world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

B Lord our God,
you make known the true life;
you cut away corruption and strengthen faith,

you build up hope and foster love.

In the name of your beloved Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
and in the power of the Holy Spirit,
we ask you to remove from these your servants
all unbelief and hesitation in faith,
[the worship of false gods and magic,
witchcraft and dealings with the dead],
the love of money and lawless passions,
enmity and quarreling,
and every manner of evil.

And because you have called them
to be holy and sinless in your sight,
create in them a spirit of faith and reverence,
of patience and hope,
of temperance and purity,
and of charity and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

C God of power,
you created us in your image and likeness
and formed us in holiness and justice.

Even when we sinned against you,
you did not abandon us,
but in your wisdom chose to save us
by the incarnation of your Son.

Save these your servants:
free them from evil and the tyranny of the enemy.
Keep far from them the spirit of wickedness,
falsehood, and greed.

Receive them into your kingdom
and open their hearts to understand your Gospel,
so that, as children of the light,
they may become members of your Church,
bear witness to your truth,
and put into practice your commands of love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

D Lord Jesus Christ,
when you climbed the mountain to preach,
you turned your disciples from the paths of sin
and revealed to them the beatitudes of your kingdom.

Help these your servants, who hear the word of the Gospel,
and protect them from the spirit of greed, of lust, and of pride.
May they find the blessings of your kingdom
in poverty and in hunger,
in mercy and in purity of heart.

May they work for peace and joyfully endure persecution
and so come to share your kingdom
and experience the mercy you promised.
May they finally see God in the joy of heaven
where you live and reign for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

E O God,
Creator and Savior of all,
in your love you have formed these your servants;
in your mercy you have called them and received them.

Probe their hearts today
and watch over them as they look forward to the coming
of your Son.

Keep them in your providence
and complete in them the plan of your love.
Through their loyalty to Christ
may they be counted among his disciples on earth
and be acknowledged by him in heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

F Lord and God,
you know the secrets of our hearts
and reward us for the good we do.

Look kindly on the efforts and the progress of your servants.
Strengthen them on their way,
increase their faith,
and accept their repentance.

Open to them your goodness and justice
and lead them to share in your sacraments on earth,
until they finally enjoy your presence in heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen

G Lord Jesus Christ,
Loving Redeemer of all,
your name alone has the power to save,
that name before which every knee should bend
in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth.

We pray for these your servants,
who worship you as the true God.

Look upon them and enlighten their hearts,
free them from the snares and malice of Satan,
heal their weakness and blot out their sins.

Give them discernment to know what pleases you
and the courage to live by your Gospel,
that they may become the dwelling place of your Spirit,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

H Lord Jesus Christ,
sent by the Father and anointed by the Spirit,
when you read in the synagogue at Nazareth
you fulfilled the words of the prophet Isaiah
that proclaimed liberty to captives
and announced a season of forgiveness.

We pray for these your servants
who have opened their ears and hearts to your word.
Grant that they may grasp your moment of grace.

Do not let their minds be troubled
or their lives tied to earthly desires.
Do not let them remain
estranged from the hope of your promises
or enslaved by a spirit of unbelief.

Rather, let them believe in you,
whom the Father has established as universal Lord

and to whom he has subjected all things.

Let them submit themselves to the Spirit of grace,
so that, with hope in their calling,
they may join the priestly people
and share in the abundant joy of the new Jerusalem,
where you live and reign for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

I Lord Jesus Christ,
after calming the storms and freeing the possessed,
you gave us a sign of your mercy
by calling Matthew, the tax collector, to follow you.
You chose him to record for all time
your command to teach all nations.

We pray for these your servants
who confess that they are sinners.

Hold in check the power of the evil one,
and show them your mercy;
heal in them the wounds of sin
and fill their hearts with your peace.

May they delight in their discovery of the Gospel
and generously follow your call,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

J God of infinite wisdom,
you chose the apostle Paul
to proclaim your Son to every nation.

We pray that these your servants,
who look forward to baptism,
may follow in the footsteps of Paul
and trust not in flesh and blood,
but in the call of your grace.

Probe their hearts and purify them,
so that, freed from all deception,
they may never look back
but strive always toward what is to come.

May they count everything as loss
compared with the unsurpassed worth of knowing your Son,
and so gain him as their eternal reward,
for he is Lord for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

K Lord, Creator and Redeemer of your holy people,
your great love has drawn these catechumens
to seek and find you.

Look upon them today,
purify their hearts,
and bring to fulfillment in them the plan of your grace,
so that, faithfully following Christ,
they may come to drink the waters of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.